Delay in home delivery of LPG cylinders

4272. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the inordinate delay that takes place in the delivery of LPG cylinder to the consumers;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for this delay; and

(c) what are the details of the preventive measures that Government proposes to take?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) OMCs have reported that at present, there is no overall shortage of LPG in the country and LPG supplies to distributors are being made by the OMCs through indigenous production and imports in accordance with the genuine demand of customers registered with the LPG distributors.

However, OMCs had reported backlog in LPG supplies in certain States in the country due to a combination of factors *viz.*, reduction in supply of bulk LPG compared to the target by Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) & Essar Oil Limited in January-February, 2008, delay in movement of bulk LPG by rail from Jamnagar to the Northern Region, increased demand in the States due to severe cold which resulted in panic booking by the customers, strikes by contract labour, agitational activities, delays in berthing of vessels at Haldia Port due to reduced draft, bandhs etc.

Government had advised OMCs to liquidate the backlog in the country by operating the bottling plants on holidays and during extended hours. Increased bottling is also done during the working days for early clearance of backlog.

At present, OMCs have not reported any backlog in supply of LPG in the country. OMCs are monitoring the situation on a day to day basis and corrective action is being taken whenever required.

Development of river tourism in Orissa

4273. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to develop tourism around India's rivers;

(b) if so, the details thereof, *inter-alia,* indicating the details of riverine tourism proposed to be developed in the Mahanadi and other rivers in Orissa;

(c) whether it is also proposed to develop places around bathing ghats; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, *inter-alia,* indicating those that are proposed to be developed in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (d) Development and Promotion of Tourism, including riverine tourism, is undertaken by the State Government/UT Administrations. The Ministry of Tourism extends Central Financial Assistance for tourism projects identified in consultation with State Governments/UT Administrations as per scheme guidelines, subject to availability of funds and *inter-se* priority. The Ministry of Tourism sanctioned Rs. 2376.30 lakhs in 2007-08 for the development and promotion of tourism in Orissa including a Project for Rs. 393.75 lakh for the development of Mahanadi Central Heritage Circuit.